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Letter dated 27 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Declaration adopted at the end of the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan ("Paris 2 – Moscow 1"), which took place in Moscow from 26 to 28 June 2006 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 96 of the provisional agenda for the sixty-first session and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan ("Paris 2 – Moscow 1")

Moscow, 26-28 June 2006

Moscow Declaration

The Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe was held in Paris three years ago. It was organized at the initiative of France, with the active participation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and is now referred to as the "Paris 1" Conference.

The 2003 Conference gave a strong political impetus to the Paris Pact process, which has served as the basis for a number of important activities and decisive practical measures aimed at mobilizing the efforts of the international community to suppress illicit drug trafficking through Central and South-West Asia.

The progress achieved to date through that process demonstrates convincingly that the path we have chosen is the right one. However, the time has come to review the implementation of the decisions taken at the Paris 1 Conference, to draw initial conclusions and to set targets for our continued joint work, which is aimed at achieving practical results.

At the initiative of the Russian Federation, in furtherance of the Paris Pact process, the ministers for foreign affairs and heads of delegation of 55 States seriously affected by the problem of the use of and illicit trafficking in opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan, together with 23 international organizations, attended the second conference on this issue in Moscow from 26 to 28 June. Given the global nature of the threat of the spread of drugs from Afghanistan, the Moscow Conference was entitled "Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan". It was organized by the Government of the Russian Federation, in cooperation with UNODC. It focused in particular on issues relating to the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotics and precursors, and the smuggling of those substances into and out of Afghanistan through neighbouring regions to their countries of destination, and also on measures to strengthen international and regional cooperation further within the framework of the Paris Pact process, addressing, inter alia, health and social issues, such as drug abuse and treatment, including treatment of persons infected with HIV/AIDS as a result of intravenous drug use.

The Conference stressed in particular that the spread of the use of and trafficking in illicit drugs and the risk of the drug trade becoming fused with terrorist and extremist activities, primarily in terms of the financing of such activities, made it imperative to intensify joint efforts to combat that global threat. Having adopted this Declaration, the participants affirmed the continuing validity of the main provisions of the Paris Pact and their readiness to step up efforts to mobilize the potential of the States concerned with a view to solving the global drug problem in the interests of international peace and security, and expressed their

support for the holding of similar meetings at the ministerial level on a regular basis.

1. Conference outcomes

1.1. Members of the international community will continue to make efforts to assist Afghanistan — which plays the main role in this process and has primary responsibility for it — in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy and in meeting the benchmarks set out in the Afghanistan Compact. This includes measures to target drug traffickers, to expand and diversify opportunities for income generation in rural areas, to reduce domestic demand for drugs, to treat individuals suffering from drug dependency and to establish effective institutions to control the circulation of drugs.

It was noted that some progress had been achieved by the Afghan authorities, with the support of the international community, in combating illicit drug trafficking, and that Afghanistan was ready for open and constructive cooperation with other States and international organizations in that regard. However, it takes time to achieve sustainable implementation of drug control and elimination strategies, particularly when the challenges are such as those we face in Afghanistan. The total output of opiates in Afghanistan still exceeds 400 tons per year in heroin equivalent. The Government of Afghanistan will need the continued support of the international community as it works to implement the National Drug Control Strategy.

It was also noted that it was imperative to strengthen cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours with a view to establishing a modern and effective border management system. It was recommended that the decisions of the conferences in Doha in May 2004 and February 2006 should be followed up and that support should be given to the establishment of an Afghan border service. In this connection, Afghanistan and its neighbours the Islamic Republic of Iran, China and Pakistan signed a joint agreement in Doha to enhance coordination on border management, the prevention of illicit drug trafficking, information exchange and cooperation on training.

1.2. According to research conducted by the United Nations, other international organizations and competent national authorities, illicit trafficking in opiates, chiefly heroin, is leading to an increase in drug addiction in countries located along drug transit routes. This applies primarily to countries in Central, South and West Asia and Central and Eastern Europe. In this context, the world community should pay due attention to all three major heroin smuggling routes from Afghanistan: the northern route (through Central Asia and the Russian Federation), the western route (through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the Balkans) and the southern route (through Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and beyond by sea).

1.3. The importance of conducting multilateral law enforcement and special services operations to block the channels for the smuggling of narcotics and precursors was affirmed.

It was noted that the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) for combating illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, which has its headquarters in Almaty, Kazakhstan, has an important role to play in establishing international standards in the region for the exchange of strategic and

operational information between the signatories of the Central Asian memorandum of understanding and their external partners. In addition, the hope was expressed that Afghanistan would sign the memorandum of understanding in the future.

Emphasis was placed on the important role of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), in dealing with the entire range of issues relating to the prevention of the drug threat from Afghanistan. It was also recommended that those mechanisms should be more focused on achieving concrete results.

The Conference was provided with convincing data on the grave socio-economic consequences of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, such as increased crime, a high mortality rate and increase in disability among the most productive age groups in the population, the expansion of the shadow economy and the weakening of State institutions because of corruption at various levels.

1.4. A positive assessment was made of progress in implementing the Paris Pact process, in the framework of which round tables are held on combating illicit trafficking in drugs of Afghan origin, which are illegally transported through the territory of the Russian Federation, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The drug situation in the countries and regions concerned should continue to be systematically reviewed in the context of round tables, and detailed recommendations should be elaborated for the Policy Consultative Group.

Decisions taken by the Policy Consultative Group have resulted in the establishment of specific projects to provide assistance to countries seriously affected by illicit drug trafficking. In order to promote that process further, it will be necessary to draw more widely on the potential of the relevant regional drug control institutions.

1.5. The conclusion was reached that greater attention should be paid to the problem of the diversion into the illicit market of precursors used to produce heroin. It was decided that, in the context of the Paris Pact process, a systematic exchange of information on the diversion of precursors should be established. This implies enhanced coordination among the States concerned, including countries that produce precursors, precursor transit countries and countries in which heroin is produced illegally.

The International Narcotics Control Board and the World Customs Organization (WCO) should play the main role in implementing an effective policy to control such precursors, particularly within the framework of the multilateral Project Cohesion and the WCO Operation Tamerlane.

1.6. It was recognized that steps needed to be taken to strengthen interaction among the judicial supervisory authorities and the courts of the Paris Pact countries, particularly with a view to ensuring that drug barons are extradited to the relevant States and brought to justice for their crimes, wherever they are.

1.7. The problem of illicit trafficking in heroin produced in Afghanistan should be considered on the basis of the principles adopted by the United Nations, in particular by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the subject of drugs. Commitment to the relevant United Nations drug control instruments was

reaffirmed and emphasis was placed on the special role of the United Nations, in particular UNODC, which is responsible for implementing the main international policy guidelines in the field of drug control and technical assistance programmes for countries that need them.

1.8. It was recommended that States, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003, should take steps to ensure that cooperation in this very important sphere is more concrete and effective and should actively apply the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 in order to combat the illicit drug problem and the crimes associated with it.

1.9. Due attention was paid to medical issues, in particular the prevention and treatment of drug addiction and diseases transmitted through intravenous injection, such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. The information on drug addiction and communicable diseases available in most participating countries reveals an alarming situation. In this context, the Governments of all countries should view the fight against drug abuse as an integral part of their public health policy, given that in some regions HIV is spreading at an alarming rate. In this connection, wide-scale regional measures are required to prevent the cross-border spread of communicable drug-related diseases.

2. Conclusions of the Presidency

2.1. The international community should reaffirm its commitments with regard to Afghanistan and, in particular, provide comprehensive support to the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy, including its law enforcement component, and take action to promote sustainable alternative development. On that basis, States are called upon to make, to the extent possible, contributions to the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund, which provides an effective and transparent means of supporting the priorities of the Afghan Government in counter-narcotics activity.

2.2. In the countries through which the drug routes from Afghanistan pass, strategies for combating illicit drug trafficking should reflect an approach that strikes a balance between prosecution of traffickers and prevention and treatment of drug addiction, in accordance with United Nations recommendations.

2.3. The central role of UNODC in combating the drug threat should be reinforced. Thus, UNODC should continue to seek to complement the Paris Pact process with drug control efforts within Afghanistan and to avoid duplication of the functions of the various international organizations involved in counter-narcotics activity in the region.

2.4. Cooperation on information-related and operational matters among the law enforcement agencies and special services of the States concerned should be improved with a view to identifying transnational criminal groups involved in the smuggling of narcotics and precursors both within and outside Afghanistan.

2.5. Where necessary, further steps should be taken to bring national legislation on drug control more closely into line with the requirements of the international conventions.

2.6. Efforts to combat the laundering of proceeds of criminal activity, including corruption and illicit trafficking in narcotics and precursors, should be stepped up. All States are urged to adopt laws on the basis of international standards and to establish financial intelligence units. In this context, the activities of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), working in close cooperation with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering, should be highly commended. The importance of implementing the FATF 40 recommendations and nine special recommendations was underlined.

2.7. The health aspects of drug use, including heroin use, should become a priority in State policy in this field. Information campaigns aimed at a young audience should be conducted systematically in primary schools and educational establishments, as well as in the leading media outlets, to alert young people to the dangers of drug abuse.

In view of the cross-border spread of diseases linked to intravenous drug use, the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and UNODC should conduct joint regional awareness-raising campaigns and exchange experience and best practice.

2.8. The need to ensure a steady reduction in the illicit cultivation of and trafficking in opium was especially emphasized.

In particular, a sharp increase in drug seizures on the borders with Afghanistan in transit countries and consumer countries, a wide-scale reduction in the illicit import of precursors into Afghanistan, the undermining of the financial base of the drug trade and demand reduction measures could help to achieve this goal.

Confidence was expressed that the discussions and recommendations of the Moscow Conference would become an element of the "Paris – Moscow process". Experts were given appropriate instructions.